hectares in 1977-78 to about 14,211 hectares in 1991-92. The question of any country being against India for producing more opium, therefore, does not arise.

Tripartite Meeting on Textile Policy

6040. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minster of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hold tripartite meeting before making changes in the new textile policy;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Textiles have already held consultations with State Governments, Organisations representing various sectors in the Ministry and concerned Ministries like Labour etc., in the Government of India to take care of the interest of all sectors. Abid Hussain Committee also had representatives of concerned Sectors. The Government therefore, feels that necessary consultations have taken place to take a view.

C.B.I. Raid at Customs Office, Bombay Airport

6041. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation raided Customs Office at Bombay airport on January 31 this year;

(b) if so, the details of the irregularities that have come to the notice as a result of the raid; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No raid was conducted by CBI on 31.1.92 on the Customs Office located at Bombay Airport, as such.. However, the CBI searched briefcases of some Customs Officers and some locker rooms etc. located at the Airport.

(b) Nothing incriminating was found in 43 lockers. From 29 lockers, one almirah and one briet-case Rs. 40,300, US $ 37, 188 bottles of foreign liquor, cigarettes, watches, electronics goods, etc., were recovered.

(c) The CBI has registered 3 cases, one against a Superintendent of Customs and two against Air Customs Officers. The Superintendent from whose brief-case Rs. 7,000/- and liquor bottles were found has been suspended.

[*English*]

Four Laning of National Highways

6042. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take up the four laning work of some National Highways with Japanese assistance during the Eighth Plan.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the National Highways identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A loan agreement has been signed in January, 1992, with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan for the Project of four-laning of Mathura-Agra Section of National Highway No. 2 from Km. 147.33 to 199.66 Km. in Uttar Pradesh. As per loan agreement, O.E.C.F. would lend an amount not exceeding 4855 million Japanese Yen as principal for the implementation of the Project.

Losses Suffered by Coffee Board

6043. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of losses suffered by the Coffee Board during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Coffee Board has not suffered any loss during the last three years.

(b) and (c). Does not arise

Curing of Raw Coffee Seeds

6044. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has given contracts for curing of raw coffee seeds;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such contracts;

(c) whether this practice is beneficial to the coffee growers;

(d) if so, how and the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons for continuing the practice of giving the curing contracts by the Coffee Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The Coffee Board has been giving contracts every year for curing of raw coffee seeds. The main provision of the pool Agency Agreement inter-alia include:-

(i). Functions required to be discharged by the curers such as the receipt, storage, curing etc. of the coffee delivered to them.

(ii) Making payments to the growers or other persons from out of funds provided by the Board and in accordance with the instructions issued in this regard.

(iii) To render out of funds in respect of all coffees milled within a reasonable period.

(iv) To maintain all registers, books records as may be required.

(v) To deliver stocks to such parties as may be directed by the duly authorised officer.

(vi) To receive remuneration in consideration of the services rendered by them, as fixed by the Coffee Board.

(c) and (d). As more than 95% of coffee growers are small coffee growers they cannot put up curing works to cure their coffees since it requires huge capital investment on machinery, Godowns, drying yards etc. As such this practice is beneficial to coffee growers. Further, the growers soon after delivering their produce to the curing works get nearly 60 - 70% of the value of their produce.